



“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’”
Luke 3:4

Second Sunday of Advent

December 5, 2021

8:30 & 11:00 AM

Shared on Augsburg Lutheran Church YouTube Channel

Forerunners and messengers advance the advent of our God. While John the baptizer’s voice in the wilderness may be the principal focus of the day, Malachi’s prophecy could as easily herald the coming Christ as forerunner of the Lord of hosts. Finally all the baptized are called to participate in the sharing of the gospel. In so doing we prepare the way for the coming of Jesus and assist all people in capturing a vision of the “salvation of God.”

*The mission of Augsburg Evangelical Lutheran Church is to glorify God
by proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ through
worship, witness, education, service and fellowship.*

All worship participants are required to wear masks regardless of vaccination status. *(Note: All those leading worship in the chancel or choir loft are vaccinated and will only remove masks while speaking or singing.)*

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Evangelical Lutheran Worship (ELW) Setting Four

✠ GATHERING ✠

OPENING VOLUNTARY Adagio. *Vivace from Sonata IV, BWV 528*

J.S. Bach

Joshua Sobel, organ intern

ACCLAMATION

Timothy Olsen

Alleluia. Prepare the way of the Lord.
All flesh shall see the salvation of God. *Alleluia.*
(Luke 3:4, 6)

We stand.

RINGING OF THE BELL

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation,
come to the help of your people,
turning us from our sin to live for you alone.
Give us the power of your Holy Spirit
that we may confess our sin,
receive your forgiveness,
and grow into the fullness
of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,
have mercy on us.

**We confess that we have turned from you
and given ourselves into the power of sin.**

We are truly sorry and humbly repent.

In your compassion forgive us our sins,

known and unknown,

things we have done

and things we have failed to do.

Turn us again to you,

and uphold us by your Spirit,

so that we may live and serve you

in newness of life

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy,

loved us even when we were dead in sin,

and made us alive together with Christ.

By grace you have been saved.

In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ,

your sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen you with power

through the Holy Spirit,

that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN 239 Hark, the Glad Sound!

CHESTERFIELD

1 Hark, the glad sound! The Sav - ior comes, the Sav - ior
 2 He comes the pris - 'ners to re - lease, in Sa - tan's
 3 He comes the bro - ken heart to bind, the bleed - ing
 4 Our glad ho - san - nas, Prince of peace, your wel - come

prom - ised long; let ev - 'ry heart pre -
 bond - age held. The gates of brass be -
 soul to cure, and with the trea - sures
 shall pro - claim, and heav'n's e - ter - nal

pare a throne and ev - 'ry voice a song.
 fore him burst, the i - ron fet - ters yield.
 of his grace to en - rich the hum - ble poor.
 arch - es ring with your be - lov - ed name.

Text: Philip Doddridge, 1702-1751

Music: CHESTERFIELD, Thomas Haweis, 1734-1820

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

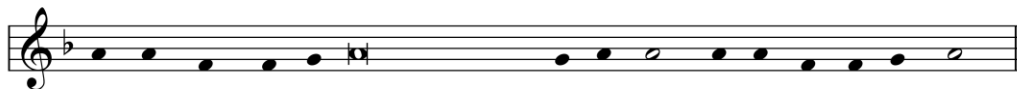
KYRIE



In peace let us pray to the Lord.



Lord have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord have mer - cy.



For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, com - fort and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

HYMN O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI, EMMANUEL

O come, O come, O Lord of might,
as to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times you gave the law
in cloud, and majesty, and awe.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

O come, O Branch of Jesse, free
your own from Satan's tyranny;
from depths of hell your people save,
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. *A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

After the prayer the assembly responds: Amen.

We sit.

WELCOME

✠ WORD ✠

FIRST READING Malachi 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds: Thanks be to God.*



⁶⁸Blessed are you, Lord, the | God of Israel,
 you have come to your people and | set them free.

⁶⁹You have raised up for us a | mighty Savior,
 born of the house of your | servant David.

⁷⁰Through your holy prophets, you promised of old to save us | from our enemies,
⁷¹from the hands of | all who hate us,
⁷²to show mercy | to our forebears,
 and to remember your | holy covenant.

⁷³This was the oath you swore to our | father Abraham:
⁷⁴to set us free from the hands of our | enemies,
 free to worship you | without fear,
⁷⁵holy and righteous before you, all the days | of our life.

⁷⁶And you, child, shall be called the prophet of | the Most High,
 for you will go before the Lord to pre- | pare the way,
⁷⁷to give God's people knowledge | of salvation
 by the forgiveness | of their sins.

⁷⁸In the tender compassion | of our God
 the dawn from on high shall | break upon us,
⁷⁹to shine on those who dwell in darkness and in the shad- | ow of death,
 and to guide our feet into the | way of peace.

SECOND READING Philippians 1:3-11

I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God's grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* **Thanks be to God.**

We stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Sung by the Assembly.



Sung by the choir.

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

All repeat alleluia.

GOSPEL Luke 3:1-6

The holy gospel according to Luke.



In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

The Gospel of the Lord.

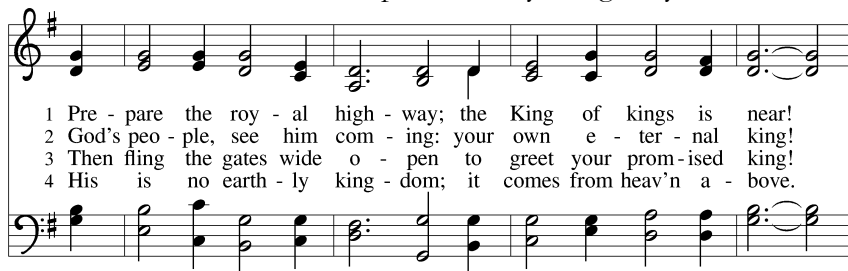


We sit.

SERMON

Rev. Bryant

We stand.



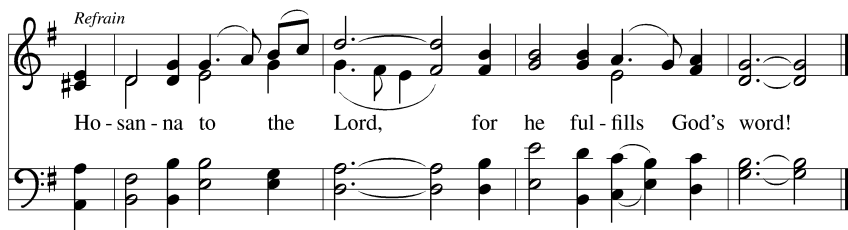
1 Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; the King of kings is near!
 2 God's peo - ple, see him com - ing; your own e - ter - nal king!
 3 Then fling the gates wide o - pen to greet your prom - ised king!
 4 His is no earth - ly king - dom; it comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley a lev - el road ap - pear!
 Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
 Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion its trib - ute too may bring.
 His rule is peace and free - dom and jus - tice, truth, and love.



Then greet the King of glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
 God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
 All lands will bow be - fore him; their voic - es join your sing - ing:
 So let your praise be sound - ing for kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Refrain
 Ho - san - na to the Lord, for he ful - fills God's word!

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN, Swedish folk tune, 17th cent.
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

Each portion of the prayers concludes:

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus.

Amen.

PEACE

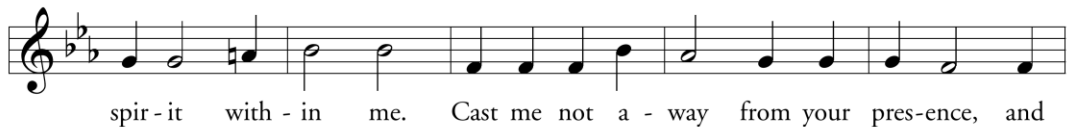
The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

✠ MEAL ✠

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN



Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.

Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts:

our selves, our time, and our possessions.

Use us, and what we have gathered,

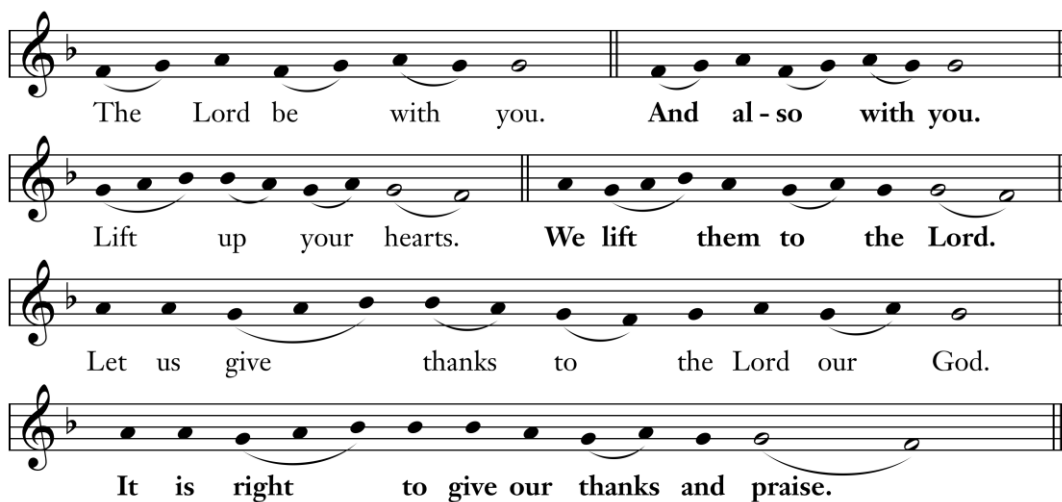
in feeding the world with your love,

through the one who gave himself for us,

Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The first staff has two measures: 'The Lord be with you.' and 'And al - so with you.'. The second staff has two measures: 'Lift up your hearts.' and 'We lift them to the Lord.'. The third staff has two measures: 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.'. The fourth staff has two measures: 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.'. The music consists of quarter and eighth notes with various rests and phrasing slurs.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:



Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - - - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - - - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:

Blessed are you for the birth of creation.

Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.

Blessed are you for your promise to your people.

Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.

Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.

Blessed are you for your Son Jesus,
the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth.

We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection.

We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit.

Come among us. Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people. Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:



Our Fa-ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
Give us to-day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as
we for-give those who sin a-gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
and de-liv-er us from e - vil. For the king-dom, the pow'r, and the
glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

The presiding minister lifts the bread and cup and says

When we eat this bread, we share the body of Christ. When we drink this cup, we share the blood of Christ.

The assembly responds

Reveal yourself to us, O Lord, in the breaking of bread, as once you revealed yourself to your disciples.

AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;
grant us peace. A - men.

We sit.

COMMUNION

Today we will be communing using the individual communion kits that you received when checking in for worship. Gluten-free wafers are available when you check in. Please wait to take communion until the pastor comes to the end of the row and shares the Eucharistic Proclamation with you. Visitors and children are welcome to receive communion. Those who have never communed and would like to are encouraged to talk to a pastor. All who do not receive communion will receive a blessing.

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond Amen.

ANTHEM Comfort, Comfort Now My People

FREU DICH SEHR (8:30)
arr. John Ferguson (11:00)

“Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!” So says our God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow’s load.
To God’s people now proclaim that God’s pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their war is over; God will reign in peace forever.
For the herald’s voice is crying in the desert far and near,
calling us to true repentance, since the reign of God is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare for God a way.
Valleys, rise to greet the Savior; hills, bow down in humble favor.
Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God’s holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token that God’s word is never broken.

We stand.

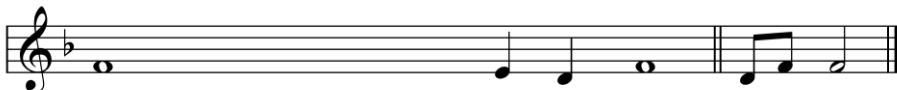
TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

Let us pray.
O God, we give you thanks
that you have set before us this feast,
the body and blood of your Son.
By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need
and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

✠ **SENDING** ✠

BLESSING



The Lord bless you ... and ✠ give you peace. A - men.

SENDING HYMN 254 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

JEFFERSON



1 Come, thou long-ex - spect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir-it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Music: JEFFERSON, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord!

Thanks be to God.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY Savior of the Nations, Come

Johann Pachelbel

Soli Deo Gloria!

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Announcements

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of my parents, Carol and Edward Bernasek, in celebration of their wedding anniversary, by Ann and Mark Cordell.

This week we keep in prayer Trudi Freeman, 5677 Beaver Pond Trail, Pfafftown, NC 27040-9042. Please send **Trudi** a note.

Advent Compline (Night Service) continues tonight and goes through the remaining Sundays of the Sundays of Advent: December 5, 12, and 19. Services begin at 8:00 p.m. and are preceded by a brief recital beginning at 7:30 p.m. All Augsburg disciples, friends, family, and neighbors are welcome to this candlelit contemplative service led by the Compline Choir. Tonight's recital will feature the UNCSCA Graduate Woodwind Quintet.

Pastor Paul will be offering a four-week Bible study during the season of Advent focused on "A Season of Hope." Each week he will be using resources provided by our friends at Lutheran World Relief to share how hope is found in the Gospel of Luke and in the work of LWR. The study will take place on Tuesdays at 2:00 p.m. starting on November 30 and the first three Tuesdays of December. This Bible study will meet via Zoom. All are welcome to attend! You can click [HERE](#) for the Zoom link!

Three ways to Give in Advent! First, you can **donate a poinsettia** in honor or memory of your loved one(s) to beautify our Christmas Eve services. Secondly, you can **sponsor a Christmas Blessing** in honor or memory of your loved one(s) that Augsburg will share with families in need at Christ's Beloved Community. We will purchase gift cards to be distributed with food pantry items over the holidays. Both giving options will be recognized in our Christmas Eve bulletin at all services. In order to sponsor a poinsettia or Christmas Blessing, please fill out a paper form, OR online form at <https://forms.gle/ZSKbNSkYmY8859Q89>. Poinsettias or Christmas Blessings are \$16 each and can be paid however you donate to the church; forms and payments are due by December 12. If you have any questions or need help, please email daniele@alcws.org.

Lastly, you can **give gifts for the Angel Tree** which will be supporting the children and families of Anthony's Plot in the Sunnyside neighborhood. Angel Tree tags will be available on December 13 with gifts to be wrapped and returned to Augsburg by January 3. If you have any questions or need help, please email katie@alcws.org. Thank you!

Augsburg's Overflow Shelter is opening on December 15 and there is so much you can do to help! Pray for our guests and volunteers, sign-up for volunteer spots and donate supplies to help us provide good hospitality and care for our shelter guests. **Donations needed include:** men's boxers, men's crew socks, hotel/travel size toiletries, Lysol/Clorox wipes, coffee, sugar, paper coffee cups, or laundry detergent. All donations can be left at the welcome tables at worship or in the church office. To sign-up go to <https://signup.com/go/AugsburgShelter>. Email katie@alcws.org if you have questions or would like to help.

We keep you in prayer. Our pastors continue to be available for your pastoral care needs. If you would like to reach a pastor, please send them an email. Pastor Paul is seniorpastor@alcws.org and Pastor Lori is pastoralassociate@alcws.org.

Readings for next week: Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18

Worship attendance for services last week: 171 in person and **75** views on **YouTube**.

Providing Service Today

Bulletin Cover Artist

Lauren Key

Ushers

(8:30) Rick Brant, Mark Galchutt

(11:00) Carrol Epting, Don Eppert,

Mark Galchutt

Head Usher

Don Eppert

Presiding

Rev. Paul Wollner

Preaching

Rev. Katie Bryant

Greeter

(8:30) TBD

(11:00) Beth Hickman

Communion Assistants

(8:30) Carol Thornton

(11:00) Vicki Strandhoy

Lay Readers

(8:30) Cherie Hennig

(11:00) Martha Claire Henzler

Altar Guild for December

Carmen Menzel & Joanna Frock

Crucifer

Mary Claire Bevis

Divine Doodles



AUGSBURG LUTHERAN CHURCH

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A member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, North Carolina Synod

Rev. Paul A. Wollner, Senior Pastor

Rev. Katie Bryant, Rostered Minister for Youth & Emerging Ministries

Dr. Timothy Olsen, Cantor

Rev. Lori H. Carter, Pastoral Associate for Congregational Care

Nancy Carbone, Parish Administrator

Daniele Olsen, Interim Administrative Assistant

Bruce Tippet, Youth Music and Handbell Director

Leigh Anna Voigt, Director of Faith Formation

Reggie Jackson, Lead Sexton

Robin Welch, Youth Coordinator

Carl Davis and John Stepney, Sextons

Hannah Norem, Communications Assistant

Augsburg Lutheran Church is a Stephen Ministry Congregation